

**Detectable Warning Domes At Curb Cuts  
Required By Federal Law To Be Flushed At The Lip**

This policy is applicable to projects under DSA jurisdiction only; DSA's Access Compliance jurisdiction encompasses state-funded buildings, facilities and universities, as well as publicly funded elementary schools, secondary schools, and community colleges. Local jurisdictions may or may not adopt similar methods of administering current code of requirements, determining equivalent facilitation, or defining acceptable parameters as necessary in enforcing the existing California Building Standards Code as allowed under Government Code Section 4452(f) of the California Code of Regulations.

**Issue:** The State Building Code calls for a half-inch lip at the bottom of all curb ramps. Federally-funded projects, generally those on the State highway grid system, are required to have flush positions at curb cut lips. This requirement prevents compliance with the present State Building Code specific to this issue. In cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and other interested parties, the Division of the State Architect/Access Compliance Program (DSA/AC), in its jurisdictional role, has approved a standard set of plans for Caltrans. The plan permits flush curb ramps as an equivalent facilitation where required because of federal requirements. While DSA/AC continues to endorse the appropriateness of State enhancements to federal minimum requirements, we feel it is important that enhancements for partially-sighted and blind citizens must be maintained.

**Resolution:** On projects where federal law requires flush transition at the bottom of curb cuts, DSA/AC will accept either (1) a steep curb cut at or exceeding 1:15 slope, or (2) a 24-inch band of detectable warning domes, arranged in-line (not the staggered pattern), as an alternative to the half-inch lip. This design allows partially sighted and blind persons to detect hazardous vehicular areas. Note that the 24-inch in-line domes are only required where curb ramps are less than 1:15 slope. Any project or any jurisdiction which wishes to install curb cuts without the half-inch lip should develop a policy of examining this issue on a case-by-case basis until federal and state codes are realigned.

This policy shall remain in effect for projects solely under DSA jurisdiction; the local building official involved should review projects in other jurisdictions.

Approving Authority:



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